

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-17, 19-24, 34, and 36-42 are currently pending. Claims 2, 18, and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 14, 17, 19, 20, 34, 36, 37, and 40 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.<sup>1</sup>

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-24, 34-39, 41, and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,148,979 to Yanagawa (hereinafter “the ‘979 patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,973,597 to Schroath et al. (hereinafter “the ‘597 patent”); and Claims 7, 14, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘979 patent in view of the ‘597 patent and “what was well known in the art at the time of the invention.”

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an electronic apparatus, comprising:

an abnormality detector configured to detect an abnormality when the abnormality occurs in the electronic apparatus;

an abnormality type determination part configured to determine a type of the abnormality detected by said abnormality detector,  
the abnormality type determination part configured to determine the type of the abnormality as one of

a first type that cannot be eliminated by a user of the electronic apparatus,

a second type that can be eliminated by the user of the electronic apparatus, and

a third type that corresponds to a predetermined function in which the abnormality is detected;

an abnormality notification part configured to automatically inform an external apparatus of the abnormality when the type of the abnormality determined by said abnormality type determination part is of the first type, and to inform the external

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., page 45, line 12 to page 47, line 22 of Applicant’s specification.

apparatus of the abnormality when the type of abnormality is a repeat occurrence of the second type; and

an abnormality display part configured to display, when the type of the abnormality determined by said abnormality type determination part is of the third type, that the abnormality is occurring only when a user request to use the predetermined function is received.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the '979 patent is directed to a printing system and method of dealing with problems in the system. In particular, the '979 patent discusses that a host computer 1 determines whether a problem is of (1) Type A that is capable of being resolved by the operator per se, (2) Type B that is technical and cannot be resolved by the operator, and (3) Type C that relates to a question the operator wishes to inquire about. The '979 patent further discusses that the problem types are identified based on information received by the host computer 1 from a separate printing apparatus 3, as illustrated in Figure 1.<sup>2</sup>

However, it is respectfully submitted that the '979 patent fails to disclose an abnormality type determination part configured to determine the type of the abnormality as one of a first type that cannot be eliminated by a user of the electronic apparatus, a second type that can be eliminated by the user of the electronic apparatus, and a third type that corresponds to a predetermined function in which the abnormality is detected. Rather, the '979 patent only discusses problems of Type A, Type B, and Type C, as discussed above. The '979 patent does not disclose a problem of a third type *that corresponds to a predetermined function in which the abnormality is detected*, as recited in Claim 1.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the '979 patent fails to disclose an abnormality display part configured to display, when the type of the abnormality determined by said abnormality type determination part is of the third type, that the abnormality is occurring only when a user request to use the predetermined function is received. Rather, as

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<sup>2</sup> See '979 patent, column 7, line 66 to column 8, line 2; column 9, lines 23-35; and column 10, lines 27-34.

cited by the outstanding Office Action with respect to dependent Claim 2, the '979 patent discusses that among the problems sensed by the sensors 105 to 109 of the printing apparatus, there are certain simple problems that the operator of the apparatus can readily deal with to effect recovery including problems such as "OUT OF INK."<sup>3</sup> The '979 patent discusses that for these simple problems, control is exercised in such a manner that the problems are displayed on the host computer 1 (*i.e.*, the external apparatus), not the printing apparatus 3 (*i.e.*, the electronic apparatus).<sup>4</sup> Further, the '979 simple problems are not selected by the user, thus the printing apparatus 3 does not display that the abnormality is occurring only when a user *request to use the predetermined function* is received.

It is respectfully submitted that the '597 patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the '979 patent, as discussed above. The '597 patent is directed to a method and apparatus for rebooting a printer. In particular, the '597 patent simply discusses generating an error message on the printer's control panel and notifying a network administrator of the printer failure *if an error counter is greater than a predetermined threshold*. The '597 patent does not discuss an abnormality type determination part configured to determine the type of the abnormality as one of a first type, a second type, and a third type. The '597 patent also does not disclose an abnormality display part configured to display, when the type of the abnormality determined by said abnormality type determination part is of the third type, that the abnormality is occurring only when a user request to use the predetermined function is received.

Thus, no matter how the teachings of the '979 and '597 patents are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest an abnormality type determination part configured to determine a type of the abnormality detected by said abnormality detector, the abnormality type determination part configured to determine the type of the abnormality as one of a first

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<sup>3</sup> See Office Action dated December 6, 2007, pages 6 and 7.

<sup>4</sup> See '979 patent, column 7, lines 24-28.

type that cannot be eliminated by a user of the electronic apparatus, a second type that can be eliminated by the user of the electronic apparatus, and a third type that corresponds to a predetermined function in which the abnormality is detected; and an abnormality display part configured to display, when the type of the abnormality determined by said abnormality type determination part is of the third type, that the abnormality is occurring only when a user request to use the predetermined function is received.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over any proper combination of the '979 and '597 patents.

Amended Claim 10 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Further, Claim 10 has been amended in a manner analogous to the amendments to Claim 1. Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 10 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over any proper combination of the '979 and '597 patents.

Amended Claims 17 and 34 recite, in part,

determining a type of the detected abnormality as one of

a first type that cannot be eliminated by a user of the electronic apparatus,

a second type that can be eliminated by the user of the electronic apparatus, and

a third type that corresponds to a predetermined function in which the abnormality is detected; and

displaying, when the determined type of the abnormality is of the third type, that the abnormality is occurring only when a user request to use the predetermined function is received.

As noted above, the '979 and '597 patents, alone or in proper combination, fail to disclose an "abnormality type determination part" and an "an abnormality display part," as defined in Claim 1. Thus, the '979 and '597 patents fail to disclose the methods of Claims 17

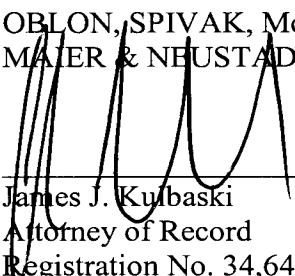
and 34, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 17 and 34 patentably define over any proper combination of the '979 and '597 patents.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 10, 17, and 34 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '979 and '597 patents.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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